

Asylum, at St. Johns, P.Q., who read the following paper on his system of "Ventilation."

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—The subject which I beg leave to bring before you this evening (my system of the ventilation of buildings) requires no proof of its actual necessity, or of how important it is in a sanitary point of view, you all know its importance just as well as I do. My system of ventilation I wish to be considered and discussed, by this Society, and that they would give their fair and candid opinion upon it without any prejudice. If you find it what I believe it to be, you will give me credit for it; if on the contrary you differ from me you will honestly give your reason why. Allow me for a moment to digress. I know there are many in this city, whom I fear are very ignorant of any system of ventilation, and when speaking on the subject begin to sneer at all systems. Men of such pretended knowledge, may (perhaps inadvertently) do a great deal of harm, without being able to offer any opinion, or suggestion, that would be of any benefit in a question of such vital importance. The majority of the medical and scientific men of the present day, have embarked in the subject of ventilation in order to secure some certain means of preserving the health of their fellow creatures. It is not the time through selfish motives, or egotism, to oppose instead of endeavouring to forward it. If such men are not capable by their own talents to add something to science, at least they should do so by encouraging all and every individual who is working hard for the sake of humanity. I believe, sir, it is a recognised fact that Dr. Parkes of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, England, is one of the best authorities, in the present day, upon Hygiene, and I know that the high and responsible position that he holds, is due to his work on that subject. He certainly has grappled with the matter well, and has proved the errors of many old and new theories. So far as wind sewerage and foul gases are concerned, I have carefully studied his work and have adopted his theory: that foul air should be drawn off above, and not below the person, and that pure air should be admitted in a similar manner. That the great object in ventilation was to expel foul air as soon as possible after it was exhaled or generated, and admit pure air to take its place. That there should, in fact, be two distinct currents always going on in the place to be ventilated, and all this should be done without producing sensible draught.

Dr. Parkes in his work gives all the different means that had been invented to accomplish this end and concludes that they were all imperfect from one cause or another. To depend upon the wind was absurd, for we have no control over it, and when most wanted, very frequently there